Lessons in Autonomancy

by Ian Night of the Desired Constellation

Autonomancy: the practice of personal exploration of symbols and rituals for the purposes of finding meaning and self-actualization.

What is Autonomancy?

Autonomancy is a system of spiritual practice that encourages practitioners to engage in self-reflection about symbols and their meanings, and recognize that external or esoteric systems of meaning are often arbitrary and can be changed and adapted to suit one's own understanding of the universe.

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Ch. 1: Principles of Autonomancy

1. Autonomancy begins from the assumption of a logical, rational, material universe. Although an Autonomancer may also hold spiritual beliefs about the universe, and apply the principles of Autonomancy in the context of those beliefs, Autonomancy may also be practised by atheist, skeptical, or materialist Autonomancers.
2. The significance of symbols used in Neo-Pagan ritual practice follow semiotic principles, but contexts and coding are sometimes too complicated or indirect to have personal meaning. Rather than rely on reference materials that lack personal significance, an Autonomancer uses a set of processes to uncover meaning that relates directly to its practitioner.
3. Once an Autonomancer has identified and catalogued symbols that have personal significance, Autonomancy provides a system for combining those symbols into practices and rituals.
4. Practices and rituals in Autonomancy are intended to have a psychological effect on the Autonomancer, fulfilling the innate need for physically realized intention for those who lack it in their lives. As such, it is an alternative to established systems of meaning that use an external locus of control. In Autonomancy, the practitioner takes responsibility for their own spiritual path. Practices and rituals have the desired effect of realizing the intentions and beliefs of the Autonomancer.
5. While the practice of Autonomancy makes no claims to have supernatural effects on the universe or evoke any particular deity, it does not supercede any personal spiritual beliefs. It can be practised by anyone who finds it useful.

Exercise 1: What's your sign?

Although Astrology is widely referenced in Western culture, it lacks specificity and rigour. It appeals to a human drive to understand the self and others through categorization; other similar systems include Myers-Briggs, Enneagram, and blood temperaments. They have varying degrees of scientific backing, but the point isn't the accuracy of the system itself. In Autonomancy, it is understood that the process of categorizing encourages self-reflection, and this is what generates the meaning. In other words, it is the self-examination of

the sorting process, and not the arbitrary symbols that result from it, that is significant.

For example, it would be far more meaningful to go through the list of personalities associated with the zodiac signs, reflect on how they relate to oneself, and *choose* one's zodiac sign instead of having it arbitrarily defined by their birth date.

With this knowledge, it is possible to generate a new set of signs by arbitrarily describing different sets of traits and allowing the Autonomancer to choose.

From the following sets of traits, choose the one that describes you best. You can also choose a secondary set that also fits you well, if it feels right. You have the right to change your sign whenever you wish.

1. **Cartoid**: Has a tendency to put others first, and usually feels fulfilled by helping and caring for others, even strangers. Needs alone time to recharge. Unlikely to play video games. Prefers comfortable shoes. Often dresses plainly, but secretly loves to wear something fancy when given the excuse.
2. **Triangle**: An innovator. Often driven, excitable, and passionate. Loves a good project. More likely to be interested in math or engineering, but even if they aren't, they tend to apply the same kind of principles to their work: for example, they may be a methodical artist, or a by-the-books lawyer. Neither a leader nor a follower, but for others who can get caught up in their whirlwind they can be a great tour guide to their discipline. Either doesn't know how to tie a tie, or knows at least a dozen fancy knots.
3. **Horseshoe**: Will give the best hugs. Loves comfort, softness, coziness, peace. Likely to be highly sensate and enjoy pleasurable experiences, even to the point of hedonism. Rather than selfish, Horseshoe types love to spoil those around them. Owns at least four sets of slippers. Has probably logged at least a hundred hours on their favorite video game.
4. **Chevron**: More likely to be found outside the house than inside; their bedroom is very basic because they generally only go there to sleep. Has a wide circle of friends, but is close to several. Envied for their memory, especially when it comes to people. Likes history and politics. When shoe-shopping, chooses style over comfort. Smiles often and usually means it, but when photographed often gets caught in an awkward forced smile.
5. **Asterix**: An anarchist at heart. A social chameleon, they changes readily to fit situations without sacrificing their core self. Passionate about causes, cares deeply for others, stirred to anger by injustice. Probably has at least three tattoos. If they haven't been arrested, it was probably by luck.

6. **Circle**: Loves the sensation of thrusting their hands into soil. Loves to nurture, whether it's people they love, plants, pets, or themselves. Likely to think long-term; doesn't plant a tree without considering where its roots will go in a hundred years. Calm, collected, and wise. Has a tendency to collect rocks if they go for a hike, and this habit has ruined pockets before.
7. **X**: A traveller. Unlikely to live in the same place for very long. Has made many friends and lost touch, but can easily res-establish bonds. Likely to be welcomed anywhere because they have a very trustworthy nature. Has probably hitch-hiked significant distances. Knows how to set themselves down in a new place quickly, and also how to quickly uproot and move on. Goes through shoes quickly. Appreciates a good bed.
8. **Infinity sign**: Clever, insightful, and strong-willed. Sometimes trustworthy, sometimes not: they can be a wild card. By the age of twelve they settled firmly on a moral code, and they don't always let on what that code is. Fall into their favour and you have a loyal friend for life, but if they dislike you they can be a bitter enemy. A selfish Infinity is a dangerous force. Often impatient with indecisive people. Cleans out their wallet/purse regularly.
9. The type of people who need to create their own #9
10. The type of people who need to create a whole brand new system from scratch.

Ch. 2: Your Grimoire (The Association of Symbols)

Before rituals can be devised and performed, the elements they are made of must be explored and understood.

An Autonomancer is responsible for exploring and cataloguing the symbols that are useful to them. This set of symbols may have widespread cultural recognition, or may be so personal as to be obscure to an outside observer. Autonomancers generally practice ritual alone, so the only important symbolic connections are the ones that carry the most meaning to the Autonomancer themself.

The first step in this process of exploration and cataloguing is to procure a catalogue. This catalogue should take the form of something that is familiar and meaningful to the Autonomancer, and also carry positive or solemn emotional weight. A few examples of catalogues that an Autonomancer might find suitable:

- A gift box from an especially memorable holiday, filled with post-it note pads stolen from work.
- The last blank school notebook from high school, covered in doodles from a best friend.
- A blank journal that was a gift from an ex whom you have finally forgiven.
- A pad of watercolour paper that you bought with your last dollar, two years ago when you were homeless, right before you discovered that your watercolour paints were stolen while you had your back turned, the same day you finally managed to find help to start turning your life around.
- A hand-bound journal you made yourself, following instructions from YouTube videos. You felt so proud of yourself until you realized you didn't have a purpose for it, and it sat in a drawer until you realized that it would be perfect for this.
- A folder on your computer ready to be filled with audio files made by yourself on your new microphone that you saved up for.
- A long scroll of paper and a feather quill from the art supply store, which you intend to write on while dressed as your favourite LARP persona.

- A perfectly mundane blank journal from the big-box bookstore down the street, which you then collage with photos from your life-changing vacation last summer.

You can refer to this catalogue by any term that seems fitting to you. Chose a term that gives the catalogue significance and makes you think of ritual and self-actualization. Some examples:

- Book of Shadows
- Semiotic Journal
- Grimoire
- Recipes for Ritual Invocation
- Symbolexicon
- Merlin's Personal Diary Keep Out

If it feels right, write this title on the front cover, or your sign from Lesson 1, or your name, or a symbol that makes sense to you in this context. Mark it in some way that indicates that you are giving it a specific purpose meant for yourself and your spiritual journey.

Ch. 3: Cataloging Symbols by Association

Take a fresh page of your book- it doesn't have to be in the beginning of your book. You'll be drawing a chart something like this, but you can change it to make sense to you. Leave plenty of room for notes. Start with these four columns:

Symbol	Associations	Connections	Intentions

Now you can start exploring and charting symbols and their personal meanings for you. To start, refer to the symbol you chose for yourself in the first Lesson, and consider three associations connected to that symbol:

1. **Cartoid**: Helping, Caring, Comfortable
2. **Triangle**: Innovative, Methodical, Whirlwind
3. **Horseshoe**: Peace, Sensate, Spoiling
4. **Chevron**: Friends, Memory, Style
5. **Asterix**: Anarchist, Chameleon, Passionate
6. **Circle**: Nurturing, Calm, Wise
7. **X**: Traveller, Trustworthy, Appreciative
8. **Infinity sign**: Clever, insightful, strong-willed

For this exercise you will start with the association column, and fill out from there. For other explorations you are free to start from the Symbol column (starting with a physical object or symbol to explore), or from the Connections column (finding new symbols to match an existing idea or set of symbols) or from the Intentions column (having a goal in mind and working backwards to find suitable symbols).

Take the three associations that match your sign and list them in separate rows, under the Associations column. For example:

Symbol	Associations	Connections	Intentions
		Clever	
		Insightful	
		Strong-willed	

Find a time and place where you can have peace and quiet for a while. Sit comfortably, or lie down, or assume whatever pose seems natural to you for comfortable meditation. It's best to minimize sensory input for now; don't put on music unless you need to drown out outside noise. Don't burn incense. Turn off or dim the lights. Close your eyes. Take a minute to slow your breathing and calm your mind.

Now consider each association separately. Take the first association, and mull it over in your mind. Repeat it to yourself in your thoughts. Examine any symbols or ideas that come into your mind; does thinking about this association bring up any colours, numbers, shapes, scents, materials? It doesn't have to make sense to anyone but you; maybe Cleverness makes you think of smoke. Maybe Insight makes you think of peanut butter. The symbols of your

ritual don't have to follow any traditions or preconceived notions. If your symbols involve circuit-boards, plastic, or a photograph of Albert Einstein, those are all perfectly valid as long as they carry meaning for you. If the symbols that come to mind feel silly, don't worry. Just go with it. If the symbols that come to mind are traditional ones that seem uninspired, don't worry. Just go with it. As always, you may reserve the right to change your mind later. You can write in your book of symbols with pencil if it suits you, and erase and rewrite as much as you want.

For now, pick one symbol that comes to mind for each association, and write it in your book, like so:

Symbol	Associations	Connections	Intentions
Smoke	Clever		
Glass	Insightful		
Princess Leia's Hair	Strong-willed		

For the connections column, write down other symbols or associations that relate to either the symbol or association. If nothing comes to mind right away, feel free to leave this blank. As you list more items, other connections will become apparent.

Under the Intentions column, suggest a purpose or goal for using this symbol.

For instance:

Symbol	Associations	Connections	Intentions
Smoke	Clever	Fire	Insight, invoking creative problem-solving, opening my mind
Glass	Insightful	Water	Clarity, clearing my thoughts, decluttering
Princess Leia's Hair	Strong-willed Strength	Iron	Strengthening resolve, refusing oppression

You probably thought of several symbols for each association; go ahead and list them on separate lines. It can be useful to keep them separate because they may evoke different connections and intentions and deserve their own notes.

Maybe this inspires you to keep going, or maybe you see different ways to organize the chart. Go for it. Make it yours. Remember to take time to clear your mind before you explore.

Ch. 4: Intentional Space

(Our altar in the corner of our studio: some cheap plastic modular shelves, an altarboard stencilled onto a sheet of art board, One's handmade catalogue, One's altarbox made from an old mandarin orange box covered in art paper. On the bottom shelf is our group's shared altar box.)

An Autonomancer's altar should reflect on the practicalities of their lifestyle. For those living in situations where Neopagan practices are viewed with suspicion or hostility, a setup in a hidden space might be ideal, or perhaps one that can be quickly and easily taken apart or disguised. For those who travel often, or are homeless, or feel it is necessary to be able to practice Autonomancy away from home, a small portable setup might be ideal. In theory, an Autonomancer could reduce their setup to a portable altar in an Altoids tin, or set aside an entire room of their house for practice. If an Autonomancer

already has a Neopagan practice, they might chose to incorporate the Autonomancy setup into their existing altar.

As with the Autonomancer's symbol catalogue described in Lesson 2, the items in the setup should be chosen in a way that reflects the Autonomancer's personality. All of the items should be individualized in some way. Crafting the items by hand is encouraged, but it is also acceptable to personalize existing items, even in whimsical or humorous ways.

A typical Autonomancer's altar contains:

- The altar: a shelf or cabinet serves well.
- The altarboard: described in more detail in the next lesson.
- The altarbox: a container for symbols that the Autonomancer uses in their practice.
- The Autonomancer's catalogue (aka grimoire, Book of Shadows, etc)

An Autonomancer is encouraged to use their imagination to adapt this setup to suit them. For instance, the Altoid tin altar might consist of:

- The Altoid tin as the altar itself, decorated with stickers.
- The lid of the tin drawn on with markers for an altarboard.
- The body of the tin as the altarbox, with symbols chosen for their size.
- A catalogue consisting of a small notepad, cut to fit.

Someone who wants to keep their practice hidden might consider:

- A shelf in the kitchen, next to the Mixmaster, as an altar.
- A wooden cutting board as the altarboard, drawn with stains and "accidental" scorch-marks from the stove.
- An empty flour bag filled with symbols as the altarbox.
- A box full of index cards for the catalogue, with notes mixed in among the recipes.

The location of the setup is important. Consider how others might interact with the altar accidentally: for example, if it's in the main hallway of the home, is it possible that a guest might mistakenly place their purse or coat on it? Is the altarbox somewhere that pets or children could find it, and either ingest or destroy your symbols? Consider safety: if you intend to use candles or incense in your rituals, is the altar near anything flammable?

The purpose of the altar as a physical setup is a material reminder of the Autonomancer's intentions. Autonomancy is about using ritual for self-actualization, and the altar is where the Autonomancer conducts those rituals and affirms their intention. Ideally, an altar (or at least part of it) should be visible in the Autonomancer's daily routine, as a constant reminder of their goals.

Ch. 5: Ritual Structure

It is important for the practice of Autonomancy that a sense of structure and continuity is observed, even if that structure is arbitrary. If the sense of structure is too loose, the practice will feel less meaningful, and an Autonomancer may lose focus and fall out of practice.

In Autonomancy, rituals are generally performed to imbue objects with meaning. The object then becomes a reminder for the Autonomancer of their goals and intentions. These objects are called charms, and are meant to be worn, eaten, or carried around. Examples of charms could be a piece of jewellery, an item of clothing, a set of car keys, a cellphone, a piece of candy, a pebble, medications, a piece of fruit, etc. The Autonomancer carries this item around on their daily routine, and whenever they feel the charm against their skin or in their pocket it reinforces the intention of the ritual in the Autonomancer's mind. For edible charms, the act of eating the charm signifies accepting a truth or absorbing a quality the Autonomancer desires. In either case, charms must be items which intimately become a part of the Autonomancer and their daily routine.

It is wise to keep an eye out for items that might be used as charms. Heavy pendants, tasty candies, fiddle rings, and other items that encourage fidgeting and attention make especially good charms. Items that are heavy, cumbersome, or uncomfortable may create negative associations and should be avoided.

In Autonomancy, the process of ritual itself is carried out using a specific altarboard. A useful altarboard has the diagram for the placement of symbols drawn or painted on it, but rituals can be performed without it. The altarboard also serves several other purposes:

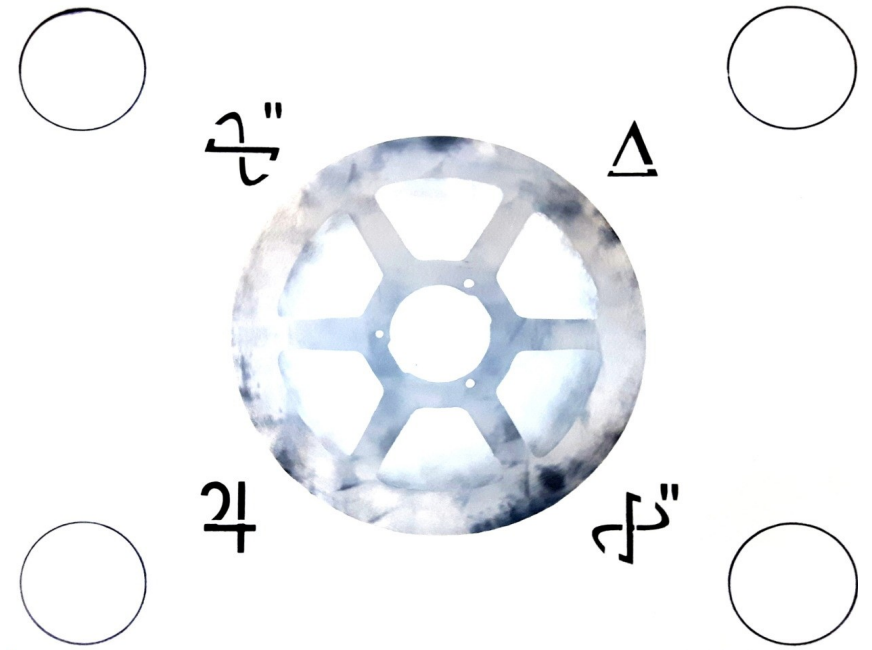
- It can be used to catch wax and ash if the Autonomancer is using candles or incense.
- It can allow a configuration of symbols to be moved without being dismantled, if neccesary.
- If the surface is erasable, graphic symbols can be written directly on to it and erased.
- If the altar needs to be taken apart in a hurry, it can be moved, or cleared by titling it into the altarbox.
- It helps create sacred space by providing an area for ritual that can't be misinterpreted as a table-top.

As usual, the item should reflect the Autonomancer's personality. A few suggestions that could work as altarboards:

- A tea tray with the diagram painted on it.
- A wooden board with the diagram burnt into it as woodburning art.
- A piece of a broken yoga mat, that can be rolled up out of the way when not in use.
- A Trivial Pursuit board from the second-hand store (the layout is similar).
- A laminated map of your local public transit system, drawn on with markers.

Keep safety in mind; avoid an altarboard made from flammable materials if you intend to use candles or incense.

The diagram on the altarboard should be some variant of this:



The important features are the central circle, the four symbols at each corner of the central circle, and the four rings at the corners of the board. The four symbols have specific meaning: the upper left should be a character that symbolizes beginnings for you: it could be the letter "A," the new moon, an egg, or something else that appeals to you. The upper right symbol represents change; here, we used the Greek letter delta (which symbolizes change in

mathematics), but you can substitute something with more personal meaning. The lower left symbolizes power; we use the symbol for Jupiter because it represents development, evolution, and mind over matter. Whatever symbol speaks power to you is suitable for your board. The lower right symbol represents goals: it should not be a specific goal, but the idea of purpose, direction, and achievement.

The central circle is split into six sections, surrounding an inner circle.

Make a copy of this diagram in your catalogue, and add notes. This is especially important if you aren't drawing the diagram directly onto your altarboard; you will need to refer to your catalogue to help you with setup.

This altarboard arrangement provides a layout that allows an Autonomancer to create new rituals in a easy-to-follow format.

Ch. 6: Creating Rituals

Rituals in Autonomancy may take a number of different forms, but a common practice will be to imbue charms with meaning.

Imbued charms will carry a specific characteristic that the Autonomancer seeks to bring out in themselves. To begin, an Autonomancer should spend a few days in reflection, including making time for meditating, going for walks, or whatever clears your mind and helps you think. The intention is to focus on what you are currently seeking in life: the goal should be relatively short term: something that you seek to accomplish in the next few days or weeks. The goal should be reduced to one or two words; a quality, such as ferocity, peace, or bravery. It does not need to be a symbol that is already in your catalogue.

In a new section of the catalogue, write the following chart:

A charm for _____
Inner ring charm: _____

Mid ring:
beginning: _____
change: _____
power: _____
goal: _____

Under "A charm for:" write the goal.

Under "Inner ring charm:" write a description of the charm you are going to imbue with meaning. It should be something that seems suitable to the purpose. As described in Lesson 5, it can be a piece of jewellery, an item of clothing, something edible, or some other object that makes sense for this ritual.

Under "Mid ring," you will write four symbols. If you do not have symbols for the association suitable for each category, take the time to seek them out as described in Lesson 3.

Under "first:" a symbol for the state you are in now, before fulfilling the goal. Under "second:" write a symbol for the nature of the change you seek. Under "third:" write the symbol for what quality will power the change. Under "fourth:" the symbol for the final goal.

Here is an example:

A charm for Persistence to Completion
Inner ring charm: key pendant

Mid ring:
beginning: Chamomile tea (for calm)
change: tube of glitter (for whirlwind energy)
power: puzzle piece (for methodical)
goal: heavy washer (for completion)

(These are my headmate's symbols, so they probably won't relate to your personal symbol catalogue.) The chart can be interpreted as: "I am in a state of calm (unmoving/depression/lack of focus). I intend to use the whirlwind (manic/frantic energy) to cause change. I will use my methodical (focused/obsessive) nature to power this change. My goal is to complete some important tasks that are necessary in my life."

The process of the ritual itself is very simple. Start by updating your altarboard: the four outer corners should be items or symbols that reflect your current life context. They can be items that remind you of your current relationships, home, work, hobbies, etc. Take time to reflect on their placement, and swap them out if you feel like it.

Next, collect the necessary symbols from your altarbox. Hold each one individually, and focus on it. Contemplate its symbolism and how you intend to use it. Then place it in the middle ring of the altarboard, in the appropriate spot: beginnings in the upper left, change in the upper right, power in the lower left, and goal in the lower right.

Once the four symbols are placed, take a moment to contemplate the setup and what it means. Then take your charm, and hold it for a moment, contemplating what you want it to do for you. Place it in the centre of the board.

Decide on a length of time; a few hours, or overnight. The exact time doesn't matter. Leave the altar now, and wait. Imagine the setup of symbols charging the charm with intention.

Once the time has elapsed, return to the altar and collect the charm. Leave the symbols in their alignment if you like, to remind you of the ritual. Wear or eat the charm, and as you do so remember what your goal is and the steps you are taking to reach that goal.

Autonomancy Tarot Guide

Re-interpreting the Tarot is an excellent exercise in Autonomancy. The meanings of the Tarot cards are steeped in tradition and esoteric knowledge, but taking the cards at "face value" also invites new and useful interpretation. This deck has been re-imagined and re-designed to encourage modern practitioners to find more immanent and relatable significance.

Where to start?

As with many other intuitive approaches to Tarot, the best way to start with this deck is to set aside an afternoon with a sheet of paper or a journal.

Burn some incense, meditate, pray, or do whatever works for you to put yourself in a state of mind to reflect and do spiritual work. Open your deck of Autonomancy Tarot cards. They should already be in order; if not, take a minute to sort them by Arcana, suit, and number. You should also find two guide cards that explain how the Autonomancy Tarot translates to traditional Tarot.

A Tarot card that is laid reversed (turned away from the reader instead of towards) carries a different meaning than one facing the reader. In this deck, the four suits of the Minor Arcana have been adapted to reflect the Eight Signs of Autonomancy, and each card has two suits depending on which direction it lands. For example, the Six of Wands is now replaced with the Six of Triangles, and the reversed Six of Wands is now the Six of Horseshoes.

If you purchased the Mini-Tarot Deck, you will also have an extra set of eight cards. Four of them each show Major Arcana cards (two on each card) and four show one-word answers (two on each card).

In your journal, set aside about half a page for each card. If you keep the cards in order as you go, it will make it easier to use this as a reference later. Consider each card singly. Take an individual card and hold it in your hand. Contemplate the title of the card and the artwork. Reflect on the personal significance the card has for you. Jot some notes. Engage your imaginative mind, and leave your critical mind aside for now. You can make adjustments later; for now, there are no wrong answers. Write about your personal impressions.

After jotting notes about a card, stop and turn it 180° so that it is reversed (facing away from you). Consider how this changes the meaning. Is it opposite? Complementary? Something altogether different?

Since there are many cards, this may take a few sessions. Take as much time as you need. If you find yourself becoming bored with this exercise, allow yourself to increase the pace a bit. You can always go back later and flesh things out. Boredom is not useful for spiritual growth.

Once you are finished your little catalogue, make sure to randomize the cards. Many purists insist that the deck be randomized by repeatedly splitting and restacking the cards, but you may choose to shuffle. Either way, make sure to turn parts of the deck 180° as you go so that the cards can land either "right-side-up" or "upside-down" (also known as "reversed.")

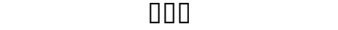
How to Read the Cards

This part of the process takes a long time to truly master, but it is possible to get some meaningful results with a few easy starting exercises.

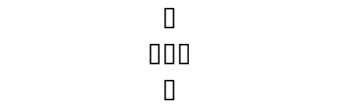
In the practice of Autonomancy, the significance and meaning of divination lies in the human urge to find patterns and connections, and assign interpretations to those patterns. However, whether your perspective is mystical or materialistic does not matter for the most part. Either way, the process has more to do with engaging in conversation with the cards, not in decoding them as though they have some literal interpretation. The same spread of cards for two different people means two different things.

Practice by reading for yourself. Use restraint when reading for yourself; one or two readings per day can still lend weight and importance to the spread, but eight readings in a day starts to dilute the significance. It's a good idea to start the day by spreading some cards while you have your morning coffee to find out how your day will go.

Try this simple spread: lay out five cards in a "plus sign" configuration. Start with a row of three cards.



Then, above and below the middle card, place two more cards.



The row of three cards represents the progress of your day. You could see it as “morning-afternoon-evening” or “start- middle-end.” The card above represents your goal or intention for the day. The card below represents your challenge or obstacle for the day.

Now, apply your imagination, and try to fit this into the context of what you thought your day was going to be like. Are you pleased that it seems to line up with the day you planned? Are you dismayed that it seems to foretell your planned day going awry? Were you undecided about your day, but suddenly feel filled with purpose?

Don't dwell too much on what you think the cards say will happen. Telling the future isn't actually the point. Discovering yourself is far more powerful. Your own gut reaction to the spread has far more importance. Listen to what your gut is telling you about yourself and your own desires.

You can come to the deck with questions about the future, but afterwards you won't have answers about the future. You will have answers about yourself and who you want to be in that future.

In the practice of Autonomancy, divination is usually given some flexibility. For example, if you flip a coin to decide between two options, then before you look at the coin give yourself permission to turn the coin over once if you want. Then look at the coin. If you got heads and find yourself wanting to turn the coin over to tails, then do so. You have given yourself an answer that engages both random chance and reveals your own unconscious desire. (It is important that you may only turn it over once! The decision cannot be repeated or undone, and by giving yourself that constraint you force your heart to make a final decision.)

The same applies for Autonomancy Tarot. If you spread the cards and are dismayed by one of them, then you do not need to accept it as fate. Examine why that card, in that particular context, upsets you. Go through your notes; can you find another interpretation or understanding of that card that gives you a new perspective or a silver lining?

If that fails, and it feels right to do so, turn that card around. You haven't cheated, or denied fate. The original orientation, the act of turning it, and the new orientation of the card all carry significance in the act of reading the spread. You have just discovered something about your own feelings and desires, and that knowledge is the purpose of this whole exercise.

There are many different spreads you can try with Tarot, and they can easily be used with this deck.

The Mini-Deck

The Autonomancy Mini-Deck was designed to be used as either a complement or stand-alone to the main deck. If you wish, you can shuffle it into the main deck for some interesting and unexpected results. You can also keep it separate, and use it as a portable tool for reflection and guidance.

The Mini-Deck is ideal for a three-card spread. A common spread is to make a row by placing the first card in the middle, the second card to the left, and the third card to the right.

□□□
2 1 3

There are many different ways to interpret, based on what kind of question you are asking:

Situation / Action / Outcome
Strengths / Weaknesses / Advice
Past / Present / Future
Option / Option / Challenge
Background / Problem / Advice

Thank you from us

Thank you for supporting our system of emerging artists. If you found yourself disagreeing with this guide, or already have knowledge or skill with Tarot, please feel free to disregard everything I've written here.

This deck is designed so that it can also be used as a traditional Tarot deck. Using the two guide cards as a reference, it's easy to translate the cards back into their original equivalents and go from there.

No disrespect or disagreement with the tradition of Tarot is intended by this guide.

This deck is (c) 2017 by the Desired Constellation.

Concept and guide by Ian Night

Art by One Faraday

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Citations

- Desired Constellation, Ian Night of. (2017). *Autonomancy Tarot Guide*. Self-published.
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Not cited, but also worth reading:

- Desired Constellation, Ronin Ellis and One Faraday of. (2017). *The Book of Autonomancy*. Retrieved from https://www.reddit.com/r/nosleep/comments/bw2zgt/the_book_of_autonomancy_part_1/

Ian Night's classic blog posts on autonomancy, now reformatted for print. Contained within are the following lessons:

- Principles of Autonomancy
- Your Grimoire
- Cataloging Symbols
- Intentional Space
- Ritual Structure
- Creating Rituals
- Autonomancy Tarot Guide